

# *Sketch*

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## Concerning My Strange Affinity for Scorching Heat

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## Concerning My Strange Affinity for Scorching Heat

Rachel Stern

(i used to be wild highway dandelions  
sometimes i miss the sky stretching as far as the interstate)

i miss pancake flat horizon  
the sunset's fingers  
palm to palm with the black dirt

the soccer field dust  
kicked up  
stuck to my teeth  
the mud pit season  
wiping war paint beneath our eyes

(i used to be the bluebonnet smell of springtime  
sometimes i miss chewing on onion grass and speaking shapes into the  
clouds)

barefoot days  
pool sides  
and scorching concrete  
tire swing imprints  
trampoline burn

and the slow slow  
molasses speech  
all tangled up in vowels

something in my heart is right  
when the ground cracks like chapped lips in summer  
and winter was just when we sang christmas songs

(i used to be the black texas ground  
sometimes i miss crunching yellow grass parted only by wood fences)

the coyote's midnight call  
trains rattling my windows  
cricket thermometer in the corner  
(chirp-chirp-chirp getting faster/growing louder)

a country station burning a hole in my heart  
maybe it's a gas leak  
maybe it's cigarette ashes i tap off my smoking consciousness

something burns my heart  
like only 100 degree texas can

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**Rachel Stern** is a writer of poetry and prose. She enjoys proving that poetry doesn't have to be as boring as Walt Whitman's "Leaves of Grass." She has previously been published in Sketch Literary Journal, The Atlas Vol. 5, and Vol. 6. Rachel is currently studying English Literature, International Studies, and struggling to learn Chinese.